WEEKLY ECONOMIC REVIEW

November 10, 2006

The Alberta economy recorded the highest economic growth among provinces in 2004 and 2005, according to Statistics Canada's provincial economic accounts released on Wednesday. Alberta's real GDP grew by 4.6 per cent in 2005 and growth for 2004 was revised up significantly to 5.4 per cent, from 4.3 percent in April 2006 estimate. Led by Alberta, the three western provinces enjoyed the highest provincial economic growth in both 2004 and 2005. Alberta also enjoys the highest per capita personal disposable income of $29,520, 21 per cent higher than the national average.

Alberta's housing starts averaged a record 48,700 in the first 10 months of 2006 over the same period in 2005. The decline in October appears to be related to seasonal factors. Housing starts in Canada rose by almost 7 per cent in October due to a sizeable 23 per cent rebound in the multiple units.

Alberta's new house price index increased by 1.4 per cent in September, with year-to-date growth of 38 per cent. Calgary and Edmonton posted the largest year-to-date house price increases of 42 per cent and 24 per cent respectively. Canada's house prices grew by 0.5 percent in September, less than half the Alberta pace.

Cdn Dollar (C¢/US$)

Nov	10, 2006	88.4¢
Nov	3, 2006	88.6¢
2006-07 YTD		89.1¢

WTI Oil US$/bbl

Nov	9, 2006	$61.16
Nov	2, 2006	$57.88
2006-07 YTD		$68.62

Nymex Natural Gas C$/mcf*

November Contract

Nov	10, 2006	$8.84
Nov	3, 2006	$8.89

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

As a result of lower oil and gas prices in September, Canada's trade surplus narrowed to C$4 billion, but the U.S. trade deficit declined by US$4.7 billion to $64.3 billion, the largest one month drop since February 2001.

Oil prices rose above $61/bbl due to lower U.S. gasoline and diesel supplies and the possibility of further OPEC production cuts.

Economic Indicators Released this Week	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (M/M)	Month/Previous Year's Month (Y/Y)	Year-to-date[1]
Building Permits ($Millions)	**September**			
Alberta	1,311	6.3%	66.9%	38.0%
Canada	5,672	-2.5%	12.4%	9.5%
Housing Starts[2]	**October**			
Alberta	40,400	-14.6%	-4.7%	21.6%
Canada	223,200	6.8%	5.2%	3.7%
New House Price Index (1997=100)	**September**			
Alberta	231.8	1.4%	52.7%	38.0%
Canada	156.5	0.5%	12.8%	9.8%
Canadian International Trade ($ Millions)	**September**			
Exports	37,883	-2.0%	-3.8%	2.8%
Imports	33,912	-1.6%	4.1%	4.2%
Trade Balance	3,971	-5.3%	-41.6%	-6.6%

Source: Statistics Canada, U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics

[1]Year-to-date 2006 compared to the same time period in 2005. For example: January-October 2006 versus January-October 2005

2 Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates